

Hints for doing well on your AP Exam



**DO NOT STAY UP LATE
STUDYING THE NIGHT
BEFORE THE EXAM!**

Have your favorite snack and go
to bed early.

A clear, rested mind is the most
important thing you can take to
the AP Exam.

Dress comfortably and make
sure to bring plenty of
sharpened pencils and good
erasers.

The AP Breakfast begins at
7:00 in Room 420. Be there
on time, get some food, and
relax.

Read questions completely
before answering.

Think before you bubble.

Don't make careless mistakes.

If you have time left over,
double-check your answers.

Do not waste time on multiple
choice questions that are
extremely difficult.

Come back to them later when
your thinking juices are really
flowing.

Distribute the 90 minutes equally
on the four essay questions
(22 minutes each).

Do not make the mistake of wasting
a large percent of your time on one
question, and then not having
enough time to answer the other
three.

Take a few moments to think and organize your thoughts before you start to answer the essay question.

Then: Get right to the point.

When answering the essay questions, stay on the topics that are being asked.

Do not add extraneous information that does not pertain to the question being asked.

No points are taken off for wrong or incorrect information, but simply writing a lot will not necessarily earn points.

You must answer the question being asked.

It is not uncommon to see an answer that fills two to three pages but does not earn any points.

Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Students will not receive points for restating the question.

Embellishing and embroidering the question and then writing it down as an answer will receive no credit.

Outline form and bullets are not acceptable, answers must be written in prose style.

Use underlining, especially if you are a poor writer, but be sure to give a full explanation.

Just listing things will earn zero points.

Do not be too fragmentary in your explanations, everything should fit together logically into complete answer.

Make sure you tie all the "pieces" of your answer together.

Don't fabricate information, it is a waste of time and will not earn any points.

Write very clearly and large enough for the reader to read your words.

Eliminate "fluff." You don't need fancy introductions or conclusions on your essays.

Be a point sponge!
Write down what you know best, first.

Think when you are answering the essay questions; you have more information in your head than you realize.

Add detail and examples.

If you are going to write down several points, write down the best ones first.

Often graders will just grade the first one or two and ignore the rest.

If you use diagrams, label and explain them.

A diagram without an explanation gets zero points.

Students must demonstrate a deep understanding of the subject whether it's a biogeochemical cycle or a solar panel.

Just throwing out terms, vocabulary and factoids is not enough.

Practice your math!

Every AP Environmental Science student should be comfortable working with percentages, decimals, rounding, fractions, algebra, exponents, and scientific notation.

Be careful when you interpret charts and graphs.

Many students draw erroneous conclusions because they have misinterpreted a graph or chart.

If the question asks you to show your work, write out all the steps clearly so the reader/grader can clearly see your work.

Many students lose points because they do their math calculations in their heads or on a sheet of paper other than the answer sheet.

Make sure, whenever possible, to support your statements with examples.

Good examples will let the reader/grader know that you understand what you are talking about.

Often, examples are required to earn some of the points available on a question.

Go in with a positive attitude.

You have the knowledge to do a great job on this test!

